
TOM HORNE
Superintendent of Public Instruction - Elect
MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION TOM HORNE BEGINS
YEAR WITH NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM – FOUR TOP EDUCATION
LEADERS HAVE 125 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AS TEACHERS, PRINCIPALS
AND ADMINISTRATORS**

PHOENIX (Tuesday, January 14, 2003) -- A new theme – service to schools – was emphasized in new appointments, as Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Horne began the year with an entirely new top executive team for the Department of Education. The entire prior leadership team had resigned, and this is a completely new team. The top four education appointees bring with them over 125 years of experience as principals, teachers and administrators to help him with his plan to improve education in Arizona.

“These positions have been filled with experienced educators,” said Horne. “This emphasizes one of our principal themes: the new Department of Education will provide educational leadership, including drawing on talented teachers, principals, and administrators to help all of our schools achieve academic excellence.”

Horne’s appointments to the new executive team for the Department of Education:

Tacy Ashby (24 years experience) is Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction, the top appointive post. She has been an Assistant Superintendent in the Paradise Valley and Cave Creek School Districts. She taught at the elementary and middle school levels for ten years and was a principal for 12 years and administrator for two years. Her leadership as a principal achieved an A+/U.S. Blue Ribbon school rating for her school.

Margaret Garcia Dugan (29 years) is a Department consultant while she finishes her contract as an administrator in the Glendale Union High School District and then will become the Associate Superintendent of Academic Support. She served as Co-Chair for English for the Children, the organization that sponsored the initiative requiring that English immersion replace bilingual. “Her appointment should erase any uncertainties as to whether I will fulfill my campaign promise to enforce that initiative,” Horne said. Garcia-Dugan has spent 16 years as an English teacher and teacher trainer. She served three years as assistant principal and ten years as a very highly regarded principal. She currently serves the Glendale District as administrator for curriculum and instruction.

Patricia Loughrin, Ed.D. (30 years) is the Associate Superintendent of Research, Standards and Accountability. Loughrin taught English and Language Arts for 21 years. Loughrin has served for the past nine years as the Coordinator of Testing and Assessment in the Paradise Valley School District.

In keeping with the theme of continuity and historical memory., Lillie Sly (42 years) is being promoted from Special Education Specialist to the leadership team as Associate Superintendent of Federal Programs. Sly formerly served in the Department as a Special Education Specialist and had assisted school districts and charters in the development

of special education policies and procedures. Sly was a teacher for nine years. She spent three years as a curriculum coordinator, five years as a program supervisor, and 11 years as a school district Director of Special Education Services.

Another promotion is that of Vicki G. Salazar to Associate Superintendent of Budget and Planning/School Finance. Salazar currently serves in the Department as an Executive Staff member.

Ralph D. Romero will continue as Deputy Associate Superintendent, aiding Margaret Garcia-Dugan in academic support and the transition from bilingual to English immersion.

Debra Jackson will continue as Deputy Associate Superintendent for Human Resources and will become part of the leadership team.

Ruth Solomon is the Associate Superintendent of Education Policy. Solomon taught for 28 years in Tucson Unified School District and served 14 years in the Arizona State House and Senate.

Douglas Nick is Associate Superintendent of Federal Relations. Nick had been District Director for Congressman J.D. Hayworth for the past seven years and previously was communications director for Congressman Jim Kolbe. Art Harding will handle State Government Relations. Harding previously managed Horne's successful bid for State Superintendent and headed up Horne's transition team.

Amy Rezzonico will be the Department's Press Secretary. Rezzonico previously served for Senator John McCain, Governor Fife Symington and the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission.

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